



Back to School



School's Open Drive Carefully!



This edition of Community Connection is dedicated to not only to reminding drivers using our roadways to be careful and mind school speed zones and flashing school bus lights, as well as to remind parents of a few laws and guidelines pertaining to children.

Topics we will be focusing on are:

- Child supervision guidelines
- Victim Rights and Services
- Laws regarding children's recreational devices (scooters, mopeds, etc.)
- Seatbelt laws

Please take a moment to read this edition and share it with friends, family, and neighbors. You may even want to share it with your children and their friends. Knowledge is a powerful tool. It may keep you safe and out of trouble.

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FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT
Fair Oaks District
Crime Prevention Unit



Special Attention!

Navigate away from being a victim



What makes GPS units such a target?

Satellite navigation systems can be pre-installed units fitted into vehicles during the manufacturing process or small, portable units that can be purchased separately and added to vehicles.

The portable units are easily installed with no complicated wiring. Generally, all that is required is to install a cradle which attaches to the front windshield by a suction cup.

These units are small, portable and frequently reported stolen.

Tips for deterring thefts:

- Do not leave valuables visible from the outside. Remove portable GPS units from the dashboard, including the cradle. Do not simply place them in the glove box or under the seat.
- Keep a supply of moist towelettes to clean the area of the windshield marked by the suction cup. The suction cup residue tells the criminal that you may be carrying a GPS.
- Do not leave other valuables in the vehicle including laptop computers, cameras, satellite radios or cellular telephones.
- Lock all doors and close windows when leaving the car, even if it is only for a short time.
- When possible, try to park in a well lit, busy area.

For more information regarding this or other important crime prevention initiatives, please contact the Fair Oaks Crime Prevention Unit at 703-352-2163.



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To request this information in an alternate format, call
703-352-2163. TTY 703-204-2264





Neighborhood Watch News



Don't forget our last Neighborhood Watch training session in 2008! The October 16th training will be held in the roll call room at the Fair Oaks District Station at 7 p.m. This is a great opportunity for the existing volunteers to take a refresher course as well as to train newcomers. If there is a large group at any given time we may change the venue to the Sully District Station conference room. **Do not forget to RSVP to MPO Sophia Grinnan via e-mail at sophia.grinnan@fairfaxcounty.gov.** Training dates for 2009 will be announced in a later edition of our news letter, The Fair Oaks District Community Connection.

It will be up to each community to provide participants. Only if you have participants should you contact MPO Grinnan. Lack of participation will result in a cancellation. If the session is canceled, you will be notified by an automated response when you e-mail MPO Grinnan. For example: You e-mail and ask if the training will still be presented. After you send the e-mail you will get an automated reply indicating whether it is canceled.

Neighborhood Watch meetings will reconvene on Tuesday, September 30, 2008 and will we will meet every last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Fair Oaks District Police Station located at 12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway. For directions, call 703-591-0966 and press 0. **These meeting are not only for residents. Businesses are welcome and encouraged to attend!** These Watch get-togethers have proven to be a productive part of your program. We hope you had a great summer and we are looking forward to working with you.



CAC NEWS



Welcome back CAC! We hope you had a great summer!

First we want to thank you for your continued support and your outreach efforts with our station. Our patrol officers have actually missed speaking with you. Remember when you first began your efforts? Outreach seemed virtually impossible at first but our CAC persevered. Now officers often ask about you by name. Thank you for your efforts; your genuine and warm kindness is much appreciated and truly recognized by all.

The Fair Oaks District is proud to have you as our CAC.

Now, don't forget our next meeting on Tuesday, September 30, at 7 p.m.
at the Fair Oaks District Station.



Child Supervision Guidelines



Fairfax County social work and community professionals have developed guidelines to help parents decide when it might be safe to leave a child unsupervised.

CHILD SUPERVISION GUIDELINES

Lack of supervision is one of the most prevalent child neglect problems in Fairfax County. The following represent minimally acceptable standards for the supervision of children.



These guidelines have been developed by social work professionals in collaboration with the community. **REMEMBER, they are only guidelines.**

There may be situations, even within these guidelines, when it is not safe to leave a child unsupervised. Parents are ultimately responsible for making decisions about their child's safety.

Whenever any child is unsupervised / unattended the following should apply ...

- There must be no emotional, medical, or behavioral problems which affect judgment or decision-making skills.
- Child must be comfortable being alone.
- Youth must have a safety plan worked out with the parent/caretaker, which includes:
 - How to access parent or other responsible adult at all times (including knowing the parent/caretaker's whereabouts and having a telephone number where parent can be reached).
 - What to do in case of emergency.
 - Guidelines for acceptable behavior.
 - Knowledge of emergency telephone numbers.
- Youth must demonstrate the ability to follow the safety plan and to make decisions that reflect concern for personal safety.

AGE GUIDELINES ...

7 years and under:

Should not be left alone for any period of time. This may include leaving children unattended in cars, playgrounds, and backyards. The determining consideration would be the dangers in the environment and the ability of the caretaker to intervene.

8 to 10 years:

Should not be left alone for more than 1½ hours and only during daylight and early evening hours.

11 to 12 years:

May be left alone for up to 3 hours but not late at night or in circumstances requiring inappropriate responsibility.

13 to 15 years:

May be left unsupervised, but not overnight.

16 to 17 years:

May be left unsupervised (in some cases, for up to two consecutive overnight peri-

Business: October is Disability Awareness Month!

The Health Promotion for People with Disabilities (HPPD) Project and Task Force at the Virginia Department of Health is looking for businesses, nonprofit and for-profit organizations, fitness facilities, and health care providers that would like to participate in Health Promotion for People with Disabilities Week, October 5-11, 2008.

HPPD is encouraging service providers across Virginia to open their doors to people with disabilities and their caregivers during Health Promotion for People with Disabilities Week, October 5-11, 2008, to promote the programs and services they offer that are available and accessible to people with disabilities.

Join in this effort. If you are interested in being involved in these activities, please contact Holly Tiller of HPPD at (804) 864-7877 or holly.tiller@vdh.virginia.gov.



Seatbelts save lives ... Using them is the law!



§ **46.2-1095**. Child restraint devices required when transporting certain children; safety belts for other children less than sixteen years old required; penalty.

A. Any person who drives on the highways of Virginia any motor vehicle manufactured after January 1, 1968, shall ensure that any child, through age five, whom he transports therein is provided with and properly secured in a child restraint device of a type which meets the standards adopted by the United States Department of Transportation.

B. Any person transporting any child less than sixteen years old, except for those required pursuant to subsection A to be secured in a child restraint device, shall ensure that such child is provided with and properly secured by an appropriate safety belt system when driving on the highways of Virginia in any motor vehicle manufactured after January 1, 1968, equipped or required by the provisions of this title to be equipped with a safety belt system, consisting of lap belts, shoulder harnesses, combinations thereof or similar devices.

C. A violation of this section shall not constitute negligence, be considered in mitigation of damages of whatever nature, be admissible in evidence or be the subject of comment by counsel in any action for the recovery of damages in a civil action.

D. A violation of this section may be charged on the uniform traffic summons form.

E. Nothing in this section shall apply to taxicabs, school buses, executive sedans, limousines, or the rear cargo area of vehicles other than pickup trucks.

§ **46.2-1100**. Use of standard seat belts permitted for certain children.

The use of a seat belt of the type which is standard equipment shall not violate this article if (i) the affected child is at least four years old but less than six years old and (ii) the weight and size of the child is such as to make the use of such seat belt practical and the use of an approved child restraint impractical.



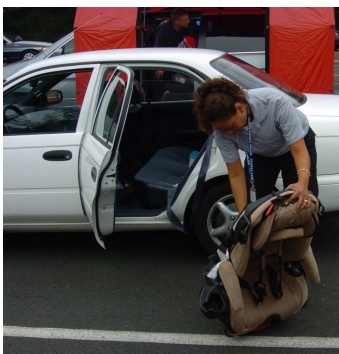
FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE

CHILD SEAT INSTALLATION HELP



Join the Fairfax County Police Department for a day of child seat inspections at the Fifty West Office Complex located at 3998 Fair Ridge Dr., Fairfax, Va. (Next to the Fair Oaks District Police station) at the following dates:

- **Sunday, Sept. 7**, 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM
- **Sunday, Sept. 14**, 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM
- **Sunday, Sept. 21**, 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM
- **Sunday, Sept. 28**, 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM



****Please bring all items that came with your child seat such as the locking clip, versa tether, and all latch straps. ****

Note: For infant child seats we ask that you bring two or three large bath towels to assist in getting the proper angle.

For more information call the Fair Oaks District Station
at 703-591-0966 (press 0)

Be Safe and Buckle Up!



Dodge a Ticket...Did You Know?



What are motorcycles?

Every motor vehicle designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground and capable of traveling at speeds in excess of 35 mph. This term/definition does not include an electric personal assistive mobility device, electric power-assisted bicycle, farm tractor, golf cart, moped, motorized skateboard or scooter, utility vehicle, or wheel-chair conveyance which are defined in Section 46.2-100 Code of Virginia.

What are mopeds?

Mopeds are defined as every vehicle that travels on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground that has (1.) a seat that is no less than 24 inches in height, measured from the middle of the seat perpendicular to the ground and (2.) a gasoline, or hybrid motor that displaces less than 50 cubic centimeters.

What are motorized scooters?

These vehicles are described as two-wheeled devices, powered by gas motors, which have handlebars and are designed to be stood upon. These vehicles can be operated on the highway, where the maximum speed limit does not exceed 25mph and no sidewalks (unless prohibited) are present.

What are motorized bikes?

These mini-motorcycles or “pocket bikes” are gasoline “motor-driven cycles” pursuant to Virginia State Code. Motorized bikes are illegal on highways, sidewalks, bikeways and on hiking or recreational trails. These vehicles can only be operated on private property with the property owner’s permission.

What are electric personal assistive mobility devices?

They are self-balancing, two non-tandem wheeled devices designed to transport only one person and powered by an electric motor that limits the maximum speed to 15mph or less. This vehicle is considered a vehicle while operated on a highway.

What are electric powered bicycles?

A vehicle that travels on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground and equipped with (1.) pedals that allow propulsion by human power and (2.) an electric motor with an input of no more than 1,000 watts that reduces the pedal effort required of the operator. This vehicle is considered a vehicle when operated on a highway and drivers must obey all traffic laws.

DID YOU KNOW...

- In 2007 there were 2,601 motorcycle crashes which resulted in 126 motorcycle operator deaths and 2,284 occupant injuries in the Commonwealth.
- In Virginia there were 266 moped crashes which resulted in eight deaths and 229 rider injuries in 2007.

More on Page 8...

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A Guide to Safe and Legal Motorcycle, Moped & Scooter Operation

More of...

A Guide to Safe and Legal Motorcycle, Moped & Scooter Operation

- While operating upon a public street or highway the driver **must** obey all traffic laws.
- While operating a moped on the highway the operator is required to ride as close as practical to the right curb/edge of the roadway.
- All persons riding on a moped **are required** to wear protective helmet and safety glasses of a type approved by Superintendent of State Police.
- No Moped shall be driven on any highway or public vehicular area faster than **35mph or by any person under 16 years of age.**
- No moped shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number of persons the vehicles were designed or equipped to accommodate.
- When operating between the hours of sunset and sunrise, it must be equipped with a headlight **and** a red rear reflector visible at night.
- Anyone operating a moped faster than 35mph is considered to be operating a motorcycle, which subjects the operator to the same traffic laws that govern motorcycles.
- **All operators are required to carry some form of identification with them at all times which includes their name, address, and date of birth.**

FAQ's

Q- Do you need a registration for a moped or motorized-scooter?

If a moped or motorized scooter has an engine displacement of 51 cc or more and the maximum speed is over 35mph, the operator is required to obtain an operators license to ride on the highway. They will also have to register and title the vehicles as a motorcycle.

Q- Can my 13 year old operate a motorized scooter on the sidewalk?

No- The child may only operate the scooter on private property with the property owner's permission.

Q- Is there a law requiring me to drive in the right lane while on my motorized-scooter?

Yes- Except under certain circumstances, whenever you are operating a moped, motorized-scooter, electric-powered bicycle, or an electric-powered assistive mobility device, you are required by law to travel as close to the right edge of the roadway as safely possible.

Q- What will happen if I am stopped by a police officer and I am not the proper age (16) or don't have any safety equipment or identification?

The officer may site you for a traffic infraction and impound the motor-bike or scooter. Parents can obtain ID cards for their children under 15 years of age at any DMV customer service center.



Fair Oaks District Station
12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy
Fairfax, Virginia 22033

Main Phone: 703-591-0966
Fax: 703-591-1032

Commander, Captain Paul Thornton
Paul.Thornton@fairfaxcounty.gov

Asst. Commander,
1 Lieutenant Ed O'Carroll
Edward.O'Carroll@fairfaxcounty.gov

Crime Prevention Unit:
703-352-2163

Fairfax County Crime Solvers:
1-866-411-TIPS or 703-691-8888

Fairfax County Police:
Non-Emergency: 703-691-2131

Citizen Reporting System:
(for reports not requiring officer response)
 Call the non-emergency number at
 703-691-2131 or report online at
www.fairfaxcounty.gov to public safety ,
 police department.



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Victim Rights & Services

Victim Rights

Crime victims and witnesses have certain rights under the Virginia crime Victim and Witness Rights act (19.2-11.0 Code of Virginia).

These rights include:

- Resource and Referral
- Victim Compensation
- Notification
- Victim Input
- Courtroom Assistance

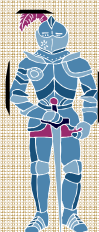


These rights are intended to ensure that victims and witnesses of crime are informed of their rights, treated with dignity, respect and sensitivity and are present and heard at critical stages of the criminal justice process.

To learn more about your rights contact the Victim Services Section.

Victim Services

- 24 hour availability
- Crisis intervention
- Someplace Safe Shelter Program
- Offender release notification
- Court advocacy
- Telephone outreach
- Crime victim compensation
- Assistance with victim impact statements
- Homicide support group



Your Victim Services Specialist located at the Fair Oaks District Police Station is:

Jeannie Kuley.....703-591-0966